

TREASURE

OUR

new hampshire

COASTS

and

ESTUARIES

miles of shoreline
131

coastal population in 2000
389,592

fy03 czma core (section 306)
funding
\$1,055,000

fy03 czma enhancements
(section 309) funding
\$83,000

fy03 coastal nonpoint
implementation
\$231,000

fy03 national estuarine research
reserve operations, education,
monitoring and stewardship
\$540,000

fy03 national estuarine research
reserve land acquisition/
construction
\$5,961,800

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COASTAL ZONE IS HOME TO 17 COMMUNITIES ON LANDS THAT BORDER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND THE GREAT BAY, ALONG WITH PORTIONS OF TIDAL RIVERS, THE LARGEST OF WHICH IS THE PISCATAQUA. THE ENVIRONMENT ALONG THE SHORELINE RUNS THE GAMUT FROM NATURAL AREAS (SAND BEACHES, ROCKY SHORES, DUNES, AND MARSHES) TO URBAN WATERFRONT. MUCH OF THIS LAND IS PUBLICLY OWNED, MAKING IT AVAILABLE FOR RECREATION AND TOURISM IN THE STATE. SIGNIFICANT COASTAL ISSUES INCLUDE DEVELOPMENT PRESSURE ASSOCIATED WITH COASTAL POPULATION GROWTH.

THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COASTAL AREAS. THIS LAW, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), RECOGNIZES A NATIONAL INTEREST IN OUR COASTAL AND OCEAN AREAS. IT ALLOWS STATES AND TERRITORIES, NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO BALANCE CONSERVATION OF THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT WITH HUMAN USES THAT DEPEND ON COASTAL RESOURCES.

THE CZMA IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

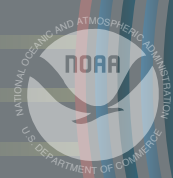
The CZMA establishes two programs to balance the use and protection of America's coasts. The Coastal Management Program gives states a flexible framework to address a broad range of community development, economic, and natural resource issues at the state and local level. The National Estuarine Research Reserve System protects key coastal areas for long-term scientific study, education, and resource stewardship

New Hampshire Coastal Program

Approved: 1982 - Ocean and Harbor Segment; 1988 - Great Bay Segment

Lead Agency: Office of State Planning

New Hampshire's Coastal Program strives to protect and restore salt marshes and reduce polluted runoff from urban sources, particularly storm water and



septic systems. These measures ensure that shellfish beds, particularly in the Great Bay, are safe for consumption. The Coastal Program also works with local planning boards to help them understand the value of their communities' natural resources and the impacts of development.

The Coastal Program's accomplishments include:

- *restoring of over 100 acres of tidal marsh since 1994 by removing tidal restrictions, restoring natural hydrology and elevations, and removing dredge spoils and invasive species;*
- *developing a fully approved coastal nonpoint pollution control program to reduce the impacts of polluted runoff, primarily from urban sources and septic systems;*
- *working through the Natural Resources Outreach Coalition to improve municipal officials' understanding of the environmental issues that face their towns, including linkages between land use change, amount of impervious surface and habitat degradation and their effect on water quality; and*
- *convening a dredge management task force that brings together stakeholders to address issues surrounding dredging.*

New Hampshire's National Estuarine Research Reserve

Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Designation: 1989

Lead Agency: Department of Fish and Game

The Great Bay Reserve is one of a national network of coastal protected areas that conduct science, education, and resource stewardship. The reserve system is a partnership between NOAA and the states. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department manages the Great Bay site.

Great Bay is located in the southeastern corner of New Hampshire and has a rich New England tradition of supporting many diverse uses, all dependent on the estuarine environment and resources. The University of New Hampshire's Jackson Estuarine Laboratory, located within the reserve, offers opportunities for ongoing research and monitoring. Educational activities at Great Bay Reserve focus on special tours, a summer lecture series, interpretive kayak programs, and outreach programs for both adult audiences and school children.

The Great Bay Reserve is also a founding member of the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership that is working through The Nature Conservancy to protect and manage critical habitats around the estuary. The reserve is in the process of expanding its boundary to include all of Little Bay and the tidal portions of the Lamprey, Squamscott, Oyster, and Bellamy rivers. This will add 2,500 acres of uplands to the reserve, including a network of freshwater wetlands that will be managed for waterfowl.

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

The New Hampshire Coastal Program is headquartered in Concord with a regional office in Portsmouth. The New Hampshire Coastal Program is a networked program, with Office of State Planning as the lead agency. Most policy, planning, consistency, and administration is done by Coastal Program staff. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services handles most permitting and enforcement.

The New Hampshire Coastal Program operates through a number of authorities and programs, including: the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act, the Groundwater Protection Act, the Emergency Management Act, and other state rules and regulations that address river management, fill and dredge in wetlands, sewage and waste disposal, fish and shellfish, aquaculture, and dredge management.